

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
DEC 22 2005

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 09/802,398
Response Date December 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 23, 2005
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract appearing on page 1 as set forth below.

A method and system for supply chain product and process development collaboration. The supply chain is comprised of at least one project, ~~where each project is defined as having a~~ part (or family of parts), a supplier ~~of~~ to supply the part, and a customer ~~to be supplied the part~~. ~~In one embodiment, the system of the present invention may includes a processor and a data storage and retrieval device operably connected to [[the]] a processor. The data storage and retrieval device holds project data which, for each project of the supply chain, includes a project identifier to identify the project, a part identifier to identify the project part, a supplier identifier to identify the project supplier, a customer identifier to identify the project customer, data representative of a methodology applicable to the project, and data representative of at least one control associated with processing of the project. The system's [[F]]functions included in the system include collaboration tools (tasks, notifications, message center, meetings, and planned visits) and security based on the users' project roles of supplier-users, customer-users, and project guest-users. The method of the present invention uses [[the]] a methodology [[to]] that ensures that certain requirements are met before the project is said prior to satisfying the methodology. The system and method of the present invention ensures that [[the]] current, applicable methodologies applicable to a project are applied to [[the]] a specific part and allows for collaboration between the customer and supplier during all phases of the project product and process design, development, and manufacture. Because the presence of all projects in a supply chain are present, in the system permits for navigation a user can navigate up, down, and throughout the supply chain. Reporting functions in the~~ The supply chain's reporting functions

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 09/802,398
Response Date December 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 23, 2005
Page 3

permit [[for]] determination of the potential performance risks ~~in the chain~~ and the source thereof
~~of such performance risks.~~